A56WX

WR-S

24 NOV 1964
422 AES

(800) PMS BUDGET

ASSASSINATION (ROUNDUP)

BY STERLING F. GREEN

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON, NOV. 24 (AP)-MOUNTAINS OF NEWLY DISCLOSED EVIDENCE PINNED SECURELY TODAY THE SOLE GUILT OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION ON LEE HARVEY OSWALD, THE MARXIST WHO SAID HE HATED AMERICA BUT FOUND THAT RUSSIA "STUNK."

THE 26 VOLUMES OF WARREN COMMISSION HEARING TRANSCRIPT, RELEASED YESTERDAY, BARED IN FULL THE CHARGES OF THOSE WHO HOLD THAT OSWALD WAS ONLY THE TRIGGERMAN FOR A CONSPIRACY OR--AS HIS MOTHER TESTIFIED--A SCAPEGOAT FOR MURDERERS STILL UNCAUGHT.

BUT THE TESTIMONY REVEALED THAT THOSE WITNESSES OFFERED ONLY ADMITTED SPECULATION, OPINION, OR UNSUPPORTED THEORY.

AND MOST OF IT WAS REBUTTED BY THE HARD EVIDENCE AGAINST OSWALD, PILED UP REMORSELESSLY IN THOUSANDS OF PAGES OF TESTIMONY AND STILL MORE THOUSANDS OF EXHIBITS.

THERE WERE DISAGREEMENTS EVEN AMONG THOSE AT THE CENTER OF THE NIGHTMARE EVENTS OF NOV. 22, 1963. DID THE DYING PRESIDENT SPEAK? NO, SAID THE WIDOW JACQUELINE, WHO WAS SPLASHED WITH HIS GUSHING LIFE BLOOD. YES, SAID THE SECRET SERVICE AGENT IN THE FRONT SEAT, THE PRESIDENT SAID, "MY GOD, I AM HIT."

TEXAS GOV. JOHN B. CONNALLY HEARD ONLY TWO SHOTS, HIS WIFE HEARD THREE. ON SOME OTHER DETAILS THOSE CLOSEST TO THE VORTEX OF SUDDEN SWIRLING TRAGEDY DISAGREED.

£A57WX

BUT THE INEXORABLE THRUST OF THE MASS OF EVIDENCE WAS THAT:

LEE OSWALD, 24, A TRUANT SON WHO ONCE DREW A KNIFE ON HIS MOTHER AND CONTEMPTUOUSLY REFUSED TO SEE "A HEAD SHRINKER OR A NUT DOCTOR," HAD THE CAPACITY, THE OPPORTUNITY, THE MEANS AND THE WILL TO ASSASSINATE A PRESIDENT. AND, AS CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN AND HIS SIX INVESTIGATIVE COLLEAGUES FOUND, DID SO.

THE QUESTION ASKED EVER SINCE BY SHOCKED AMERICANS--COULD IT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED?--WAS ANSWERED NEGATIVELY BY SECRET SERVICE CHIEF JAMES J. ROWLEY.

HIS AGENTS IN DALLAS PERFORMED "IN AN EXEMPLARY MANNER," SAID ROWLEY.

LADEN AS IT WAS WITH HINDSIGHTS AND MIGHT-HAVE-BEENS, THE TESTIMONY WAS ALSO ILLUMINED WITH GRISLY SCENES ETCHED FOREVER ON MEMORIES.

THE WIDOW OF JOHN F. KENNEDY REMEMBERED: ". . . AND JUST AS I TURNED AND LOOKED AT HIM, I COULD SEE A PIECE OF HIS SKULL AND I REMEMBER IT WAS FLESH COLORED. I REMEMBER THINKING HE JUST LOOKED AS IF HE HAD A SLIGHT HEADACHE. . . . AND THEN HE SORT OF DID THIS, PUT HIS HAND TO HIS FOREHEAD, AND FELL INTO MY LAP."

GOV. CONNALLY, CONSCIOUS DESPITE GRAVE WOUNDS, SAW ON THE PALE BLUE UPHOLSTERY A "CHUNK OF BRAIN TISSUE AS BIG AS ALMOST MY THUMBNAIL."

SECRET SERVICE AGENT CLINTON HILL, WHO LEAPED ON THE ACCELERATING CAR AS IT SPED OFF TO PARKLAND HOSPITAL, THOUGHT HE KNEW WHY MRS. KENNEDY CRAWLED OUT ON THE REAR DECK OF THE AUTOMOBILE--AN EPISODE SHE SAID SHE COULD NOT RECALL.

HILL SAID HE THOUGHT SHE WAS "REACHING FOR SOMETHING COMING OFF THE REAR TAIL OF THE CAR." HE GRABBED HER, PUT HER BACK IN THE SEAT. ". . . THE NEXT DAY WE FOUND THE PORTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S HEAD. . . IT WAD ~~FOUND~~ IN THE STREET."

ℓA58WX

AND THE STARK FEAR OF A WIFE WAITING ALONE IN A HOSPITAL CORRIDOR WAS CONFESSED BY MRS. CONNALLY: "I GUESS LIKE ANY OTHER WOMAN, I WONDERED IF ALL THE DOCTORS WERE IN THE ROOM ON THE LEFT AND THEY WERE NOT TAKING TOO GOOD CARE OF MY HUSBAND ON THE RIGHT. I SHOULDN'T HAVE WORRIED ABOUT THAT, SHOULD I?"

THE TESTIMONY RELEASED YESTERDAY WAS THE BASIS FOR THE COMMISSION'S FINDINGS, ISSUED EIGHT WEEKS AGO. IT WAS SCHEDULED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO NEWSMEN TOMORROW AND FOR RELEASE IN NEWSPAPERS AND FOR PUBLIC SALE NEXT MONDAY.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OBTAINED ACCESS TO SOME OF THE VOLUMES AND SENT OUT STORIES YESTERDAY AFTER SOME PRIOR PUBLICATION ELSEWHERE. A FEW HOURS LATER, THE WHITE HOUSE RELEASED THE ENTIRE SET FOR PUBLICATION AND PUBLIC SALE.

THE TESTIMONY DEALT AT LENGTH WITH THE MOTIVES OF JACK RUBY, THE DALLAS NIGHT CLUB OPERATOR CONVICTED OF MURDERING OSWALD DURING A JAIL TRANSFER TWO DAYS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION. A CURIOUS SENTENCE HIGHLIGHTED THAT TESTIMONY.

"I GUESS I JUST HAD TO SHOW THE WORLD A JEW HAS GUTS," RUBY TOLD FORREST V. SORRELS, SECRET SERVICE AGENT IN CHARGE OF THE DALLAS OFFICE.

OSWALD'S MOTHER, THE TWICE-WIDOWED MRS. MARGUERITE OSWALD OF FORT WORTH, INSISTED TO THE COMMISSION, AS SHE HAS IN PAID LECTURE APPEARANCES, THAT HER SON MIGHT HAVE BEEN A SECRET AGENT OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WHO WAS SET UP TO TAKE THE BLAME FOR THE ASSASSINATION.

SHE ACKNOWLEDGED SHE HAD NO SUPPORTING EVIDENCE, HOWEVER.

AND LEE'S HALF-BROTHER, JOHN EDWARD PIC, TESTIFIED THAT HE BELIEVES HIS MOTHER "IS OUT RIGHT NOW TO MAKE AS MUCH MONEY AS SHE CAN ON HER RELATIONSHIP WITH LEE HARVEY OSWALD."

A59WX

LT. FRANCIS L. MARTELLO, WHO INTERVIEWED OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS AFTER THE FORMER MARINE BECAME INVOLVED IN A STREET BRAWL WHILE DISTRIBUTING PRO-CASTRO LITERATORE, SAID OSWALD CONSIDERED HIMSELF A MARXIST, NOT A RUSSIAN-STYLE COMMUNIST, AND SAID HE HATED AMERICA. "I ASKED HIM WHAT HE THOUGHT OF THE FORM OF COMMUNISM IN RUSSIA, SINCE HE HAD LIVED THERE FOR TWO YEARS, AND HE REPLIED 'IT STUNK.'"

IN THE DALLAS JAIL, AFTER THE ARREST, OSWALD GAVE ARROGANT DENIALS TO EVERY QUESTION ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION, DALLAS POLICE CHIEF JESSE E. CURRY TOLD THE COMMISSION.

AND HIS SECRETS DIED WITH HIM. FRANTIC AND FUTILE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A DEATHBED STATEMENT, JUST AFTER THE FATAL SHOT FROM JACK RUBY'S PISTOL, WERE DESCRIBED BY DALLAS POLICE DETECTIVE B. H. COMBEST.

OSWALD HEARD AND RECOGNIZED COMBEST AND APPEARED TO UNDERSTAND THE OFFICER'S URGING THAT "IF HE WANTED TO SAY ANYTHING HE WAS GOING TO HAVE TO SAY IT THEN."

"(OSWALD) JUST SHOOK HIS HEAD," COMBEST SAID.

PB/WE/PB422AES£